Ch. Brahm Prakash Committee

57. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Ch. Brahm Prakash to make to a review of the Status of cooperative movement;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to implement the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOOR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Statement is attached.

Statement

Planning Commission constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Ch. Brahm Prakash in March, 1990 to make a review of the status of the cooperative movement and suggest about the future directions and to finalise the model State Cooperative Societies Bill. The Committee submitted its report in May, 1991.

The Committee went through the details of some of the existing Cooperative Societies Acts and felt that some provisions of these Acts were restrictive in nature. Keeping in view the restrictive provisions of the existing Cooperative Acts and the need for liberalising these provisions, the Committee recommended various measures to make co-operatives free from Governmental control and also to restore democratic functioning, less bureaucratic and political interference. The Committee, *inter alia*, recommended a Model Cooperative Act.

Some of the salient features of the Model Cooperative Act are as follows:-

(i) Government will not have any rule making power;

(ii) No power to the Registrar or the Government for supersession of the Board; compulsory amalgamation/ division of cooperative societies; compulsory amendment of the bye-laws of cooperative societies; authority to veto/ rescind the resolution of the Managing Committee, issue of directives etc;

(iii) Cooperative federations are to assume greater responsibilities towards the member cooperatives, particularly to ensure the regular conduct of elections and annual audit;

(iv) It prohibits the cooperatives from accepting funds from Government by way of equity;

(v) Board of Directors shall be accountable for timely conduct of election, audit of accounts etc;

(vi) The Model Act prohibits Government officers to work in cooperative on deputation;

(vii) The Model Act provides for the Constitution of Cooperative Tribunals for settlement of disputes including appeals; and

(viii) The Model Act provides stringent provisiosn for offences.

The Model Act recommended by the Committee was circulated to all the State Governments and Union Territories. Thereafter, in July, 1992 the Act was discussed in the Conference of Ministers of States incharge of Cooperation. States agreed in principle to the recommendation as contained in the Model Act and their implementation in a phased manner. Some States were of the view that the Central Government should take the lead by amending the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984. The Ministry of Agriculture is taking necessary action to seek the approval of Parliament on the amendment/modification to the Multi-State Cooperatives Act, 1984.

Dr. Sen Gupta Enquiry Committee

58. KUMARI UMABHARATI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the report of Dr. Sen Gupta Enquiry Committee to remove the difficulties regarding Amarnath Yatra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have studied the report; and

(d) if not, the time by which the said report is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The entire Report was laid on the Table of the Houses of Parliament on 18.12.1996.

(c) and (d) The Government have accepted the Report and the Government of Jammu & Kashmir is taking appropriate remedial/preparatory measures on the lines suggested in the Report, so that there is no recurrence of the tragedy.

MRTS

59. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to hand-over the development of Mass Rapid Transit System projects to the Ministry of Railways; and